

CLAIMS

5 What is claimed is:

Item 1

1. A method of tracking consumer data for a consumer product offered for sale by a provider using a disaggregated database comprising the steps of:

10 a) Assembling an individual database for an individual consumer which individual database includes purchasing data for the individual consumer relating to the consumer product;

b) Extracting the purchasing data from the consumer's individual database;

15 c) Sending extracted consumer purchasing data to a data collection center controlled by the provider of the consumer product;

d) Analyzing the extracted purchasing data at the data collection center; and

20 e) Based on the analysis, communicating customized information from the provider to the consumer from which the purchasing data was collected.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of assembling further includes the steps of:

- 5 a) Providing the consumer with a data acquisition device;
- b) assigning a product code to the consumer product;
- c) attaching a product identifier device to the consumer product for communicating the product code to the consumer data acquisition device;
- 10 d) Activating the product identifier device within the vicinity of the consumer's data acquisition device; and
- e) Acquiring the product code with the consumer's acquisition device.

15 3. The method of Claim 2, wherein the product identifier device is selected from the group consisting of a magnetic medium, a magnetic media write device, an RFI tag, an RFI tag transmitter device, a bar code label, a compact disk, a DVD disk, a hologram, and an alpha numeric serial number label.

20 4. The method of Claim 2, wherein the data acquisition device is selected from the group consisting of an RFI tag, a magnetic medium, an RFI tag reader with memory, a magnetic medium reader with memory, a bar code reader with memory, and a digital computer.

5. The method of Claim 1, wherein the extracting step further includes the steps of:

5 a) Providing the individual consumer with a data acquisition device which can acquire and store purchasing data for the individual consumer relating to the consumer product; and

10 b) Polling the consumer's data acquisition device by a terminal device; and

10 c) downloading the consumer's purchasing data to the collection center.

15. The method of Claim 5, wherein the product identifier device is selected from the group consisting of a computer readable medium, an RFI tag, a bar code label, and an alpha numeric serial number label.

20. The method of Claim 5, wherein the data acquisition device is selected from the group consisting of an RFI tag reader with memory, a bar code scanner with memory, a personal data assistant, and a personal computer.

25. The method of Claim 7, wherein the terminal device is selected from the group consisting of the RFI tag reader linked to a communications network, the bar code scanner linked to a communications network, the personal data assistant linked to a communications network, and the personal computer linked to a communications network.

30. The method of Claim 5, wherein polling of the data acquisition device by the terminal device occurs at a point of sale of the consumer product and the customized information is communicated by the terminal device to the consumer at the point of sale.

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10. The method of Claim 5, wherein polling of the data acquisition device by the terminal device occurs at a point of sale of the consumer product and the customized information is communicated to the consumer at a location remote from the point of sale.
11. The method of Claim 1, wherein the purchasing data is extracted at a point of sale of the consumer product and the customized information is communicated to the consumer at the point of sale.
12. The method of Claim 1, wherein the purchasing data is extracted at a point of sale of the consumer product and the customized information is communicated to the consumer at a location remote from the point of sale.

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13. A system for tracking consumer data for a consumer product offered for sale by a provider using a disaggregated database comprising:

5 a) Data acquisition device carried by an individual consumer for assembling an individual database for the individual consumer which individual database includes purchasing data for the individual consumer relating to the consumer product;

10 b) A terminal device for extracting the purchasing data from the consumer's individual database on the data acquisition device; and

15 c) a data collection center controlled by the provider of the consumer product for receiving the extracted purchasing data from the terminal device via a communications network, which collection center includes a computer for:

20 (1) Analyzing the extracted purchasing data at the data collection center; and

25 (2) Based on the analysis, communicating customized information via one or more terminal devices from the provider to the consumer from which the purchasing data was collected.

14. The system of Claim 13, further including:

25 a) a product code attached to the consumer product; and

30 b) a product identifier device attached to the consumer product which identifier device when activated within the vicinity of the data acquisition device communicates the product code to the consumer data acquisition device;

15. The system of Claim 14, wherein the terminal is a point of sale terminal and supplies purchasing data to the data acquisition device at the time the product is sold to the consumer.

16. The system of Claim 13, wherein the product identifier device is selected from the group consisting of a computer readable medium, an RFI tag, a bar code label, and an alpha numeric serial number label.

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17. The system of Claim 13, wherein the data acquisition device is selected from the group consisting of an RFI tag reader with memory, a bar code scanner with memory, a personal data assistant, and a personal computer.

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18. The system of Claim 13, wherein the terminal device is selected from the group consisting of the RFI tag reader linked to a communications network, the bar code scanner linked to a communications network, the personal data assistant linked to a communications network, and the personal computer linked to a communications network.

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19. The system of Claim 13, wherein the terminal device is a point of sale device and extracts the purchasing data from the data acquisition device at a point of sale of the consumer product and communicates the customized information to the consumer at the point of sale.

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20. The system of Claim 13, wherein the terminal device is a first terminal device that is a point of sale device and extracts the purchasing data from the data acquisition device at the point of sale occurs at a point of sale of the consumer product and the customized information is communicated by a second terminal device to the consumer at a location remote from the point of sale of the consumer product.

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21. A method of tracking consumer data for a consumer product offered for sale by a provider using a disaggregated database comprising the steps of:

5 a) providing the consumer with a data acquisition device;

 b) assigning a product code to the consumer product;

 c) attaching a product identifier device to the consumer product for communicating the product code to the consumer data acquisition device;

10 d) activating the product identifier device within the vicinity of the consumer's data acquisition device;

 e) acquiring the product code with the consumer's acquisition device;

 f) extracting the purchasing data from the individual database; and

15 g) analyzing the consumer database.

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